Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 163911 ORIGIN NODS-00

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NODIS

FOR DR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 11712 ACTION SECSTATE JULY 14.

QUOTE S E C R E T CAIRO 11712

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: US, IS, EG

SUBJECT: ISRAELI QUERY RE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STATE 162519, (B) STATE 161492

1. IN MY PRIVATE MEETING WITH SADAT YESTERDAY IN ALEXANDRIA, I TOLD HIM THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE GOOD USE OF HIS TWO MESSAGES TO PRESIDENT CARTER ABOUT THE ISRAELI BODIES AND THE REMOVAL OF EXISTING EGYPTIAN FORCES FROM ZONE OF LIMITED ARMAMENTS. THESE HAD BEEN VERY HELPFUL IN CONTRIBUTING TO OUR EFFORTS TO CALM THE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE PERIOD AHEAD WHEN WE ARE SEEKING TO GET NEGOTIATIONS RESUMED. I HOPED THAT SADAT WOULD SECRET

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CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS TO KEEP THE SITUATION CALM AND THAT BELLICOSE GOE PUBLIC STATEMENTS WOULD BE AVOIDED. SADAT SAID HE WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE AND AGREED THAT PUBLIC STATEMENTS ARE NOT HELPFUL AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE.

2. HE DID ASK IF FAHMY HAD CONVEYED HIS MESSAGE ABOUT

THE NEW ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS AT RAFAH. I SAID THAT FAHMY HAD DONE SO (CAIRO 11708). SADAT INDICATED THAT THESE NEW SETTLEMENTS DISTURB HIM GREATLY. UNLESS THEY ARE STOPPED, GOE CANNOT SIT BY IDLY AND DO OR SAY NOTHING. FAHMY HAD RECOMMENDED THAT HE BE ALLOWED TO MAKE A STRONG PUBLIC ATTACK. THE PRESIDENT HAD TURNED THIS DOWN, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT. HOWEVER, SADAT ECHOED FAHMY'S COMMENT THAT GOE SILENCE WILL BE READ BY ISRAELIS TO MEAN ACQUIESCENCE AND THIS IS UNDESIRABLE.

3. I TOLD THE PRESIDENT, AS I HAD EARLIER TOLD FAHMY, THAT OUR POLICY ON THE ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IS WELL KNOWN. THE ISRAELIS ARE IN NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. WE HAVE STATED OUR POSITION REPEATEDLY, BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY. I HAD INDEED COMMUNICATED THE MEMORANDUM THAT FAHMY HAD GIVEN ME AND, AS SADAT HAD REQUESTED, I HAD ASKED THAT IT BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF PRESIDENT CARTER FOR CONSIDERATION IN CONNECTION WITH UPCOMING BEGIN TALKS. I URGED THAT, FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST, GOE NOT PUBLICLY REACT TO THE JERUSALEM POST ANNOUNCEMENT ON NEW SETTLEMENTS UNTIL THE SITUATION CLARIFIES A BIT MORE. IT WAS IN BOTH OF OUR INTERESTS TO KEEP THE SITUATION CALM IN THE DELECATE PERIOD AHEADO SADAT AGREED. EILTS UNQUOTE VANCE

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To: WHITE HOUSE

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